Nation
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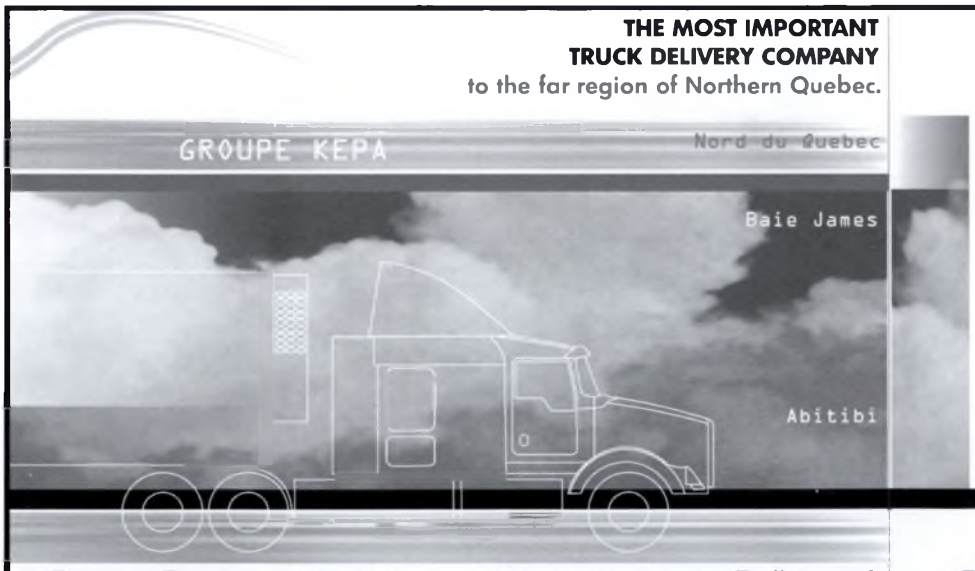

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Residential School Conference

By Will Nicholls

I'm quite happy to see that there will be a regional residential school conference happening in Eeyou Istchee. Most people look at the problems associated with residential schools mainly as those that happened only to the students who attended these schools.

The effects are considerably more far reaching, however. It is now seen, and rightly so, as a problem that has affected generations.

Even the beginning of the schools where it seemed benign compared to later would create problems. Anyone who has seen the film Cree Spoken Here knows that in the earlier days Cree syllabics were taught and there wasn't quite the fanaticism to destroy any vestiges of Aboriginal culture. However, what was done was bad enough to the culture even then. You removed children from their homes and parents by force. A trauma in itself that would haunt and shape children for the rest of their lives. You were basically shown that you and your people had no rights, no recourse and no power to shape your own destiny.

Then by virtue of being taken from your parents you had no role models to enable you to be an effective parent. On a subconscious level your parents had been supplemented and it was shown that they could not protect you. Any role model you had was often an aloof task master in the form of a teacher, principal or other official of the residential school.

Then the Canadian government stepped up its assimilation program (a genocidal step as defined by The Hague). Reports of sexual and physical abuse were often ignored or hidden away. Even today, many of the abusers are unrepentant.

The symptoms of the residential schools are with us today. You see the rise in gangs, alcohol and drug abuse, the high suicide rates and a host of other problems. Parents can't or don't know how to discipline or control their children. One only has to go into any of the Cree communities after midnight to see the children out on the streets. We're not even talking teenagers here but younger lost souls. Such patterns led to the gangs and high rates of theft we are now seeing.

Remember when doors weren't locked and stealing another person's equipment or possessions was unthinkable? This is part of the multi-generational effect of residential schools and it gets worse unless something is done about it.

One merely has to look at Moosonee and Moose Factory, where Horden Hall residential school was. I'm sure many a Cree remembers the shanty town across the bridge in Moosonee or the tarpaper shacks in Moose Factory and the craziness that went on there.

Look at those locations today though and you will see a different story. I went back after 20 years and was amazed. The shacks are gone and in their place are beautiful homes and a sense of community pride. The drinking isn't as crazy and wild as it once was.

It was because the people there got tired of what was happening and decided to take control of their own destiny. They wanted something better for themselves and their children.

We need to do the same thing and a regional conference on residential schools is a step in the right direction.

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on the cover

Photos by: Jason Coonishish of Billy Blacksmith on the Road in the Rockies

Design: M. Laviolette

rez notes

Inner peacenik

Inner peace is something of a rarity these days. It is a feeling without the adrenaline to interfere with the mind's ability to comprehend sensible things. Like, for instance, why is that guy looking at my girlfriend that way? Should I react with my face or fist? Should I smile nicely and say, "Hey, it's nature." Or do I come out of my nirvana to wreak havoc with his hairdo and suave, debonair manner? Why do I tend to keep my peace instead of going crazy? Because I know from experience, that pulling out hair is easier on company than throwing tantrums and blows (though I admit I'm running out of hair to pull).

I do admit, however, that being cool year round and over a period of years, the nuclear reactor I call a mind tends to reach meltdown levels and I need to let out some steam before the pressure cooker boils over and turns me into a shamble of a man I used to look at in the mirror on a weekly basis (I am not narcissistic by nature for obvious reasons and do not need to spend so much time in the bathroom like many other pretty boys I know). This, I concur, is the proverbial wall that marathoners or triathlon participants literally cannot pass, once their Olympic bodies say, "I quit." Sometimes, it is good to reflect back on one's self and past. As a contortionist is able to do, look back over one's past for work well done. Too often, one can be hard on one's own self and psyche and try too hard to accomplish what many would call impossible. I think that in today's society, most pressure is imagined and so construed to mimic the improbable scenario that, for example, to get out of bed and go to work in the morning. This insurmountable obstacle tends to carry the most weight on one's shoulders when one is in their teens, and if not handled properly, can carry on for one's entire life. Apparently, many people have this lethargic look at life and sadly, many choose to stay that way.

Well, it's time to get full of beans and vinegar and get up and do something with your lives. Get out of bed and get an education and improve your chances of prosperity, because as a nation, we have the cherry on top of the sundae. We have the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and many others that are intended and designed to improve our lives to a calibre that exceeds the norm of Canadian living standards. But we do not apply them to their fullest extent. Many politicians might disagree with me, but the JBNQA is just paper in binding. What really is the force behind this is to implement our share through the youth and get them out of bed to rise to a new future.

I say, that with all we have, I cannot understand our mentality that we are impoverished to a point where we must depend on handouts on a regular basis. I say, let's get down and get things done.

One day, we will have a surplus of funds and skilled people, and what will we do then? Until that day comes, we just have to keep on getting out of bed and trudging along to work and school and plug away at creating our future out of the Precambrian shield we call home. This takes time, and like the ones who paradoxically cannot get out of bed to do anything yet want everything immediately, it will take time to change the mentality of our people from a dependent nation to an independent nation with all the tools to make a nation. I suppose that when that day comes, my grandchildren will wheel me out the door and into the fading sunset that I once called James Bay, safe with the knowledge that it took me 25 years to move into those once brand new and shiny old age centres that are springing up in every community. There's still life in these old bones, and I'd like to see some new bones getting into the action.

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Canada

IT'S $70 MILLION TIME

by Will Nicholls

It's another fiscal year and another $70 million is being pumped into the Cree economy through the Paix des braves Agreement. Even though there are a lot of happy faces in Eeyou Istchee, some have those smiles upside down.

Part of the reason is that $2 million has been cut from the amount budgeted for the Cree Regional Authority (CRA). Last year, the CRA received $10 million; this year, $8 million. This money is to cover Quebec government obligations now administered by the CRA. Most of the funds are redistributed to such organizations as the Cree Trappers Association, JBCCS, Youth Council, Elders Council, Wasasibi Corporation, Cree Outfitting and Tourism, Cree Development Corporation fund and others.

The Cree Trappers Association (CTA) is another organization not smiling as much as they would wish. The CTA received $2 million, the same amount as last year. But the CTA's Thomas Coon told the Nation that amount is still far below what the organization needs and that they expect to have to tighten their belts once again.

"With the first $70 million last year we asked for a little over $6 million," Coon explained. "This year we asked for a little over $7 million because the Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) funding, which used to solely come from Quebec, terminates this year. With the M.O.U. monies we used to do the cabin program and buy bush radios with that. We looked at some capital expenses and office facilities. That was all under the MOU funds. That's why we needed to increase to $6-7 million under the second $70 million request. Cutting $2 million is not good news at all."

The CTA will be looking very carefully at all Cree Agreements and funding sources in order to be less dependent on the Paix des braves funding. "This is so we don't rely on the $70 million alone. I had hoped that the CTA would have had a brighter light at the end of the tunnel but instead we found a small candle."

Another disappointed organization is the Elders Council. "I don't know how many times in the past we asked for money so we can help and give the Youth direction," said Robbie Matthews Sr.

He sees the youth as wanting to find themselves through Cree culture and that it is the responsibility of the Elders to help make this happen. He said the youth have many problems in the daily life of the communities but, "when they go out on the land they find that they're more at peace. They're happy there and that's where they can find spiritual healing. They want to be able to go on the canoe excursions every summer. That's where they'll find what they're searching for. That's why we need more money, it's for these kinds of things."

Matthews says it cost $45,000 for one meeting alone between the Elders and the youth. Matthews says the budget for the Youth and Elders Councils should be around $400,000 each from the fund. The Youth Council and the Elders Council will each receive $100,000 for this with no changes from last year.

Then, of course, there is the Cree Development Corporation. It was one of the selling points of the Paix des braves agreement. It was referred to as the new economic engine of the Cree Nation. It would be something that would replace the now defunct SODAB. It gets a yearly sum of $350,000 a year from agreement monies. That piddling amount won't even gas up the "economic engine of the Cree Nation," much less get the motor running.

In all the years since the agreement was signed, no loans have been made

continued on page 9

Where the Money's *Going*

Entity	Total Amount
Cree Quebec Forestry Board	575,000
Other Forestry Related Expenditures	425,000
Forestry Enhancement Program	500,000
Environmental Review - Rupert	350,000
Limited Partnership Expenses	200,000
Agreement Implementation Costs	1,000,000
Cree Mineral Board	320,000
Cree Development Corporation	350,000
Cree Trappers Association	2,000,000
Cree Outfitting & Tourism Ass.	300,000
Cree Native Arts & Crafts Ass.	200,000
James Bay Advisory & Evaluating Committee	80,000
Protection & Enhancement of Cree Rights	750,000
Aanischaaukamikw Center	100,000
Youth Council	100,000
Elders Council	100,000
Elders & Youth Coordination Fund	50,000
Cree Communication Society	100,000
Washaw Sibi Association	200,000
Whapmagoostui Isolation Factor	300,000
Total	**8,000,000**

Community	Total Amount
Chisasibi	$8,497,000
Wemindji	$4,450,000
Waskaganish	$6,000,000
Mistissini	$5,186,450
Waswanipi	$5,550,000
Eastmain	$2,500,000
Ouje-Bougoumou	$2,500,000
Nemaska	$2,500,000
Whapmagoostui	$2,700,000
Total	**39,883,450**
Community Centres	13,114,000
Heritage	10,500,000
Grand Total	**71,497,450**

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The movie 24 hours in the life of a Cree worker at Eastmain-1 is now available.

Recently produced by SEBJ in collaboration with the Cree Regional Authority, the movie shows Cree communities and the everyday life of a worker at Eastmain workcamp. Please contact Public Relations at the jobsite, at 1-888-676-4636, for more details.

The Société d'énergie de la Baie James wishes all James Bay Crees an enjoyable Goose Break.

Société d'énergie de la Baie James

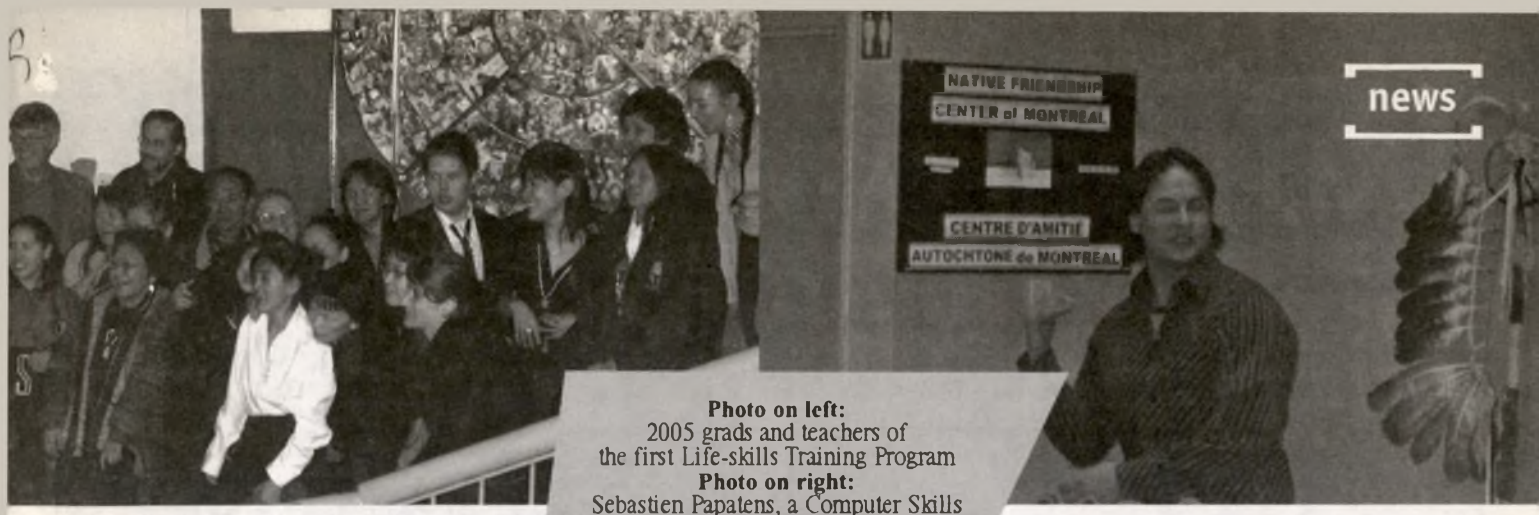

Photo on left:
2005 grads and teachers of the first Life-skills Training Program
Photo on right:
Sebastien Papatens, a Computer Skills Training Program graduate

photos: Norman Fireman

First Life-skills Students Graduate from Montreal Friendship Centre

By Norman Fireman

The Montreal Native Friendship Centre hosted its first graduation ceremony March 23, after setting up a life skills training program last year. Twenty-four of 30 students graduated in the first wave.

"That's a great percentage," said Sky Bellefleur, the trainer for the Life Skills Training Program.

The program teaches Aboriginal history and helps people deal with budgeting, self-esteem, addictions and the trauma of residential schools.

"Some of the things contributed to the baggage people are carrying and don't realize in many cases like drinking, gambling and other behaviours," said Bellefleur. "It's a way of dealing with the pain that's inside and we look at the healing aspect."

Bellefleur said the program was set up after a needs assessment was conducted at the Friendship Centre concerning which programs the community members thought they needed.

"A lot of them said they had a hard time finding jobs," Bellefleur noted. "Many of them didn't know how to use a computer and felt they needed computer skills and also needed help in gaining self-confidence. So Louise Mayo, the director, looked at the life skills program that she was familiar with and searched for partners."

"Get out there and accomplish what you want to be."

One of the partners is Epoch, a non-profit organization. The Centre set up a partnership between them and the First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec. Between the three partners they hired a trainer and Bellefleur, who worked together for a couple of months building the content of the course. It started in September and ran through March.

It's more than just healing and teaching people to deal with everyday life, said Bellefleur. "On the positive side, we believe in celebrating our identity as Aboriginal people. If you're Inuit or Cree, okay let's find out what it means to be Inuit or Cree for you and be proud of that. It makes a good solid foundation to stand on and that's a very strong message."

The women involved in the success of the Life-skills and Computer Training Program: Sky Bellefleur, Donna Lemay and Sherri Levine

Sebastien Papatens, a Cree from Sennetere who graduated from the course said he is "very happy of the achievements from the program and all the participants that stuck to the program. Hopefully this will be a useful tool in the future for all of us. I would like to thank all the people who took part in it such as Epoch, the Native Friendship Centre and all the trainers and students."

There were two sisters from Chisasibi – Helen and Mina Ekomiak – among the graduates. "We had a lot of fun," said Helen. "We learned a lot of things in the program and we met a lot of people from many different communities. Hopefully the things we learnt will help us succeed in landing future jobs."

Pamela Shauk, an Inuk from Chisasibi, said the computer course was a little hard for her. "I was very scared to get into it at first, but I'm also very happy for all of the students who graduated with me," Shauk said. "I strongly encourage people to continue with their education, although we have a lot of dropouts, we must not be quitters. Get out there and accomplish what you want to be."

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You have until April 30, 2005 to submit your comments on the conformity of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert Diversion Project.

If you need more information contact the Public Information Office at 1-877-880-8378 or (514) 376-6131 and ask for Joshua Iserhoff or Robert Bellizzi. You can also visit www.bip-pio.qc.ca

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continued from page 5

to any Cree business, organization, person or persons wanting to start up a business. Apparently no one has even been named to head up the CDC.

To make matters worse, most of the organizations who received money aren't really sure of the protocol needed in order to make a request to access funding from the Paix des braves Agreement. They know though they have to submit proposals and budgets. One of them commented that the chiefs and the communities don't have to submit anything. An insider at the Grand Council said some communities were good in submitting reports while others merely sent in their annual report. It leaves the much-talked about "accountability to the people" a little tattered, according to some.

Most of the people interviewed for this story would not go on record or wished to remain anonymous. As one person put it, "the chiefs and communities control 18 out of 20 seats in the Grand Council and they are the ones to decide how much money any of us get. I'm not pissing them off."

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	Round Robin Winnings:	$1,500
Open B Finalists:	Moose Factory Scrappers:	$3,000
	Round Robin Winnings:	$2,500
Open C Champions:	Whapmagoostui Tomahawks:	$2,500
	Round Robin Winnings:	$500
Open C Finalists:	G.W.R. Whalers:	$1,500
	Round Robin Winnings:	$1000

Women's Hockey

Champions:	Kangiqsujuak:	$3,000
Finalists:	Kuujjuarapik:	$1,000

Men's Recreational Hockey:

Champions:	Inukjuak Quebecers:	$3,000
Finalists:	Sanikluak Team Nunavut:	$1,000

A steady reader from Sainte-Foy

Feedback: Don Burstick says, "you are a redskin if..." Well, I can tell you I read "everything" in the *Nation* and I am not the only white man to do so. But if I say I end up reading the classifieds and I live in Cap-Rouge, then I say my 14 years travelling in the north begins to get to me. I am looking forward to reach out in the seat pocket of an AirCreebec plane seat and learn about Cree People.

I have been traveling to Creeland on a very regular basis for a couple of years now and I just wanted to tell you from my perspective how your magazine helps me understand and appreciate Crees. Your magazine talks and is meaningful. Everything says a lot, even the ads. It is interesting to see how advertisers talk to the Cree people. All columnists are excellent and straight forward, but no one can make me laugh like Neil Diamond (tears every time). It is a real enjoyable experience for me every time I read a new article from him. However, I cannot laugh and share the experience with people at the office, in my family, nor my friends, because they just cannot understand.

It is a nice and warm feeling to begin to sense what is Eeyou Istchee, and it is a real pleasure to read it from you guys!

Serge Simard
Civil Engineering Technologist
Bruser & Associate

Correction

In the April 1st edition of *The Nation*, we wrote that 600 people marched in Val-d'Or on Elimination of Racism Day. The record-breaking turnout was actually 800 people. In addition, around 400 organizations and business people signed the 2005 Declaration of Friendship Between Peoples, another record-breaker for the event organised by the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre.

Photos: Genevieve Demers

Tyron Moses, receiving the Eastmain School Committee Award for respect, consideration, and a positive influence on others, from Lynda Mayoppa

Eastmain School's ANTI-BULLYING CAMPAIGN

By Chris Hatch, Chairperson, WES Anti-Bullying Steering Committee

On April 4, Wabannutao Eeyou School (WES) in Eastmain launched a three-pronged Anti- Bullying Program focused on bullying behaviors within our school and our community. The three-pronged approach consists of: an already successful plan entitled "Steps to Respect"; a police-sponsored Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program; and a "Good News Tepee," a plan to recognize, reward and encourage positive student behaviours.

Chris Hatch, teacher and Chairperson of the WES Anti-bullying Steering Committee

Trevor Mercier, Daisy Fry, Noella Cox, Isabelle Doyle, Bessie Tomatuk, teachers performing anti-bullying skits

Buffet time for participants in the WES anti-bullying assembly

Part of the official launch involved the presentation of several bullying skits, starring an array of amateur stars, Russell Crowe/ Nicole Kidman wanna-bes and the members of WES teaching staff.

We seek the support and cooperation of school staff and administration, our business community, band office, school board personnel, community members and last, but by no means least, our students. The degree of success will undoubtedly depend on the degree of support we receive.

While we aim for "zero tolerance," we realize it will not be achievable overnight. It's a long road that has no turn. Will this program be the answer to all our ills?

Only time will tell.

Critics will say that similar programs have been tried before and failed. On behalf of the Anti-Bullying Committee, I can only say that a lot of time and effort has gone into the creation of this program. We may be disappointed if we fail, but we are doomed if we don't try.

Healthy Living

Nourish the body and stimulate the senses with Healthy Living recipes!

Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each issue of *the Nation* will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.

Mushroom Meat Pies

1/2	frozen puff pastry sheet	one quarter of a 525g package
1 pound	lean or extra lean ground beef	454g
6 ounces	sliced mushrooms	180g
1 1/2 cups	chopped onion	360ml
1/2 cup	frozen peas	125ml
1 1/2 cups	fat-free, low-sodium canned beef broth	360ml
1 tbsp	bottled steak sauce	15ml
2 tsp	crushed dried thyme	10ml
2 tbsp	all-purpose flour	30ml

1. Preheat your oven to 450° F. On a clean, lightly floured counter or table top, roll out the pastry sheet into a 6-inch square. Using a sharp knife, cut the sheet into twelve half-inch strips.

2. In a heavy skillet over medium-high heat, combine your beef, mushrooms and onion, browning until beef no longer shows traces of pink. Sprinkle your beef mixture with the thyme and flour, mixing gently. Slowly add your beef broth and steak sauce, then cook everything for an additional 5 minutes, stirring often. Finally, add in peas and cook for three more minutes, until peas are completely thawed (heated through but not mushy).

3. Spoon this mixture into four 5-inch wide individual mini casserole dishes. After spooning, arrange two pastry strips across each other in an X shape over each casserole, and then place a third strip across the middle. Press ends of strips firmly into the sides of the casserole to seal.

4. Bake for approximately 12 minutes, or until pastry is puffed and golden brown. Makes 4 servings.

TIPS: Beef can be replaced with goose, caribou, moose or deer. Adjust cooking times to compensate. Yummy side dishes could be mashed potatoes, steamed wild rice and/or mixed vegetables. Enjoy!

NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION PER SERVING (ONE MINI CASSEROLE USING BEEF):

Calories: 430; Protein: 29g; Total fat: 22g; Saturated fat: 5.8g; Carbohydrates: 28g; Dietary fibre: 3g; Cholesterol: 41mg; Sodium: 219mg.

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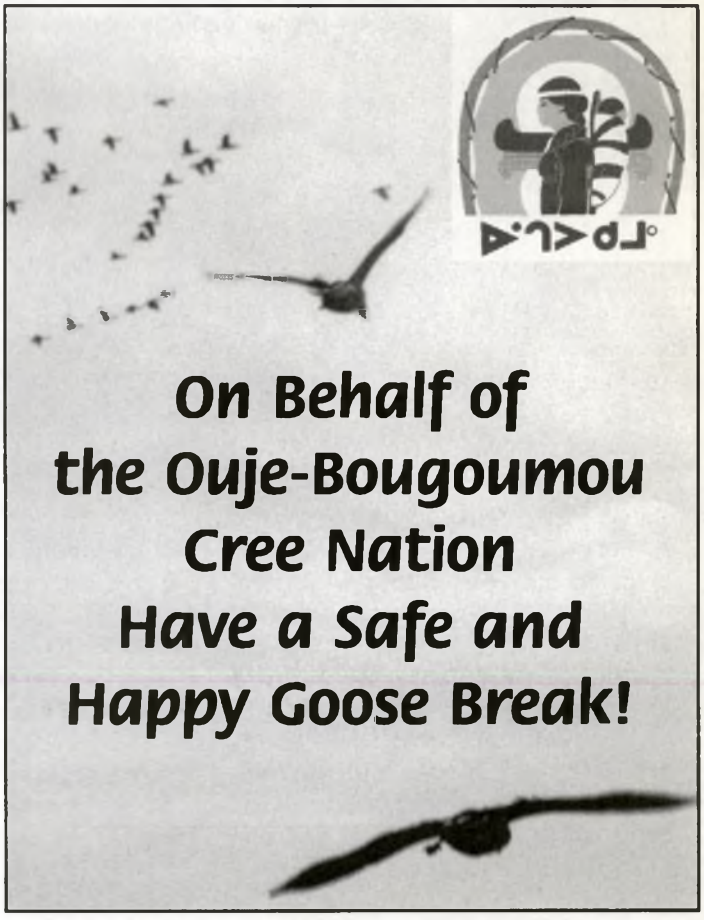

In Loving Memory of the Late Billy Blacksmith

By Jane Blacksmith

Photos by Jason Coonishish

Billy Blacksmith

He was a small elder, but fit as a fiddle, and known to all who knew him as "the old man who was forever looking for a wife!"

I guess we know now that nobody could ever replace Bella Blacksmith who died from breast cancer in the fall of September 8, 1977.

I remember so vividly my last visit with Billy on April 17, 2004. He was cooking supper for himself, there was something boiling on the stove which looked like two pork chops. He was going to add a little flour so that he could have a little broth to go with the fried bannock which he was working on just as Ronnie and I walked in. We sat down to visit for awhile.

Today I often think: if I had only known it was to be our last visit I would have stayed so much longer.

He looked so tired. But he continued to cook, to talk, to laugh even though he looked so very tired. He finally sat down to eat. Later, I helped him clean up his dishes. If you have ever visited Billy Blacksmith's cabin at the Perch, you will remember a spotless clean cabin and that was the way he always kept it. As we sat there, Edward Matoush came in to visit so Ronnie and I decided to leave.

Again I remember so vividly my last words to him and his last words to me. I told him, "*Agooda Chano*. Good night, sleep well." He responded with a laugh and said, "I would sleep so much better if I was sleeping with a lady." We laughed as we walked out.

Again, I often think if I had only known it would be the last time that I would see your face, I would have hugged you, I would have kissed you and I would have expressed my love for you.

The next morning was Sunday, April 18, 2004. The pastor Gordon Petawabano came to inform us of the death of our beloved father, father in law, grandfather, friend and mentor. Billy Blacksmith Sr. had died in a fire at his cabin at Perch.

I have to admit that there were so many emotions to go through, including anger, shock, disbelief and blame. So many emotions, it was actually terrifying. There were so many "Why?", "What if?" and "I should've" thoughts going through my mind. Why God? Why did you allow him to leave us in such a tragic way, why?

I realize today it would have been pointless to ask him to go home to Mistissini because he preferred the peace and quiet of his cabin. Billy never depended on anyone to help him. It was his way to be alone. It was his way to be independent.

I remember Ronnie and I decided to go to the Perch that morning. We asked my mother Mabel, my sister Louise and her husband Norman to accompany us to the site where the tragedy had happened. One of the police officers came over and explained to us the findings of their investigation. His body was found in a kneeling position beside one of the beds. The police officer explained that the body was burnt beyond recognition.

I asked, "Are you sure it's him? How do you know it's him when you say the body is burnt beyond recognition?" I suppose I was hoping it was not him. The police officer said that they were able to identify him by his dental work and his two watches confirmed that it was our father.

To this day, I thank God and I thank the investigators for their decision to remove the body before my husband could approach the site and the body. I wanted Ronnie to remember his father the way he always was, happy, funny, kind and peaceful.

Finally, Ronnie and I approached the site where the cabin used to stand. There was absolutely nothing left except a cast iron frying pan. That's all that was left of his belongings.

As I stood there, a thought came to my mind. In the midst of sorrow and pain there is always a glimmer of hope, a message of faith to sustain you in your time of need.

I found it amazing and consider it a miracle that the pastor and the police were able to say that the body of our dear father was intact and had been found kneeling by the side of his bed.

As I stood there, with my memories, I remembered how he used to sing hymns. I remembered how he would always fall asleep while reading his Bible and the thought that sustains me, the thought that gives me strength is: He was kneeling in prayer as he breathed his last breath. He prayed that he would go home to finally sleep with a lady. "His First and Only Lady Bella V. Blacksmith."

The sudden and tragic passing of my father-in-law has given me a valuable lesson in life and that is not to take advantage of people who touch our lives with their kindness and love for they can disappear before we can ever thank them or tell them how much they mean to us.

Today, as the snow slowly falls to the ground and the trees are white, covered in snow and frost, I remember you.

Today, when I see the geese fly by, when I hear the sound of the geese, I remember you.

Today, when I walk by the shores of Mistissini Lake, when the lake is calm and peaceful, I remember you.

Today, on a warm beautiful spring day and blue, blue sky, beautiful memories come to mind, your face, and your snow white hair becomes so clear as if you only left yesterday. I can almost hear your laugh.

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By Jane Blacksmith

Photos by Jason Coonishish

Billy Blacksmith and great-grandsons Tyler and Jason jr, and grandson Jason Coonishish

ᑭ ᐊᐸᓂᓂ ᑲᔅ ᓇᐣᑦ ᑭ ᓂᐢᐊᓂᔪᓱ ᑲᔅ ᒥᐢᑎᑦ ᐊᐧᐦᔪᐤ ᐅᒋᓇ ᐅᒋᐢᒥᓂᑦ, ᑭᖅᐃᓇᓄ ᒍᓂ ᑲ ᓇᓂᑐᐦᒪᑦ ᐊᐧᐦᔪᐤ ᖃ ᐧᐃᑭᐣᐳᐅᑦᓴᓂᐤ

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Société d'énergie de la Baie James

Traffic disrupted between Matagami and the Eastmain-1 jobsite

For an undetermined period, there will be transportation of wide pieces between Matagami and the Eastmain-1 jobsite. This will considerably disrupt traffic. Each trip will be divided into two parts: from Matagami to Kilometre 274 (intersection with the Route du Nord) and, the following day, from Kilometre 407 to the Eastmain-1 jobsite. On the James Bay highway, the convoy will stop every 30 minutes, and/or as needed, to allow traffic through. However, from the Route du Nord to the Eastmain-1 jobsite, vehicles will not be able to pass the convoy. Hydro-Québec Security will be making sure that everything goes smoothly, several kilometres ahead of the convoy.

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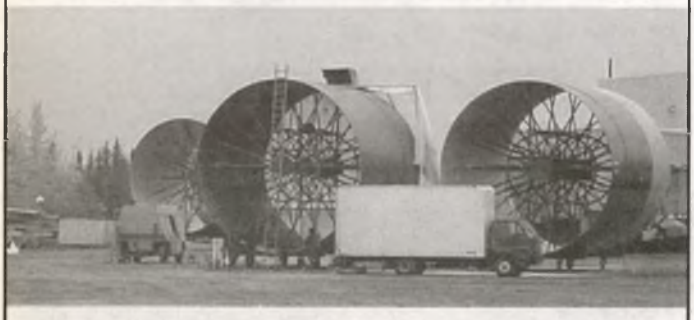
A toll-free line is available to find out about the convoy's position. For information, please call 1-888-676-INFO (4636)



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LES MINES
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Inmet Mining Corporation
Troilus Division

JOB OFFER # 300
CREE EMPLOYMENT COORDINATOR
(Permanent) (Human Resources)

The Troilus Division is presently searching for a CREE EMPLOYMENT COORDINATOR (Human Resources) to join a dynamic team. The Troilus Division is a gold and copper open pit mine. The mine site is located at 175 km north of Chibougamau by way of the "Route du Nord". The selected candidate will work on a 4/3 schedule (4 days of work, 3 days off) and will be lodged at Troilus's comfortable facilities.

Required qualifications:

To hold a college diploma or the equivalent. To have one to two years experience in administration. Demonstrate cooperation to fellow employees via support, availability and regular quality communications. Work experience in a multicultural environment would be considered an asset. Require advanced knowledge of the following softwares : MS OFFICE (Excel, Word). Possess a valid driver's license. Basic French and English required (spoken and written). Possess a good knowledge of the Cree language.

Main responsibilities:

- Ensure good communication between the Company and Cree employees
- Provide the required information to the Crees concerning job opportunities related to proposed contracts
- Make sure to remove all obstacles for Cree employment, other than those related to job requirements
- Inform the Implementation Committee regarding manpower needs
- Make sure that all available jobs are posted strategically where they can be seen by Cree people
- Conduct and coordinate interviews when Cree candidates are involved
- Ensure the provision of Cree candidates according to company needs via a Cree candidates bank
- Provide support on staffing and labor relations management for Cree personel
- Ensure observance of the agreement between the Cree and the Company
- Must have leadership skills
- Must be reliable and independent
- Support and give advice to Cree employees regarding recruitment, remuneration, labor relations and fringe benefits
- Act as interpreter for employees having communication difficulties
- Maintain good work relations with Cree employees
- Perform duties within the limits set by company safety-health and environment policies and regulations
- Perform duties with rigor, discipline and accuracy
- Provide quality work within established deadlines
- Collaborate with other department personnel for the achievement of common goals

Particularities and remuneration

Inmet Mining Corporation offers a competitive salary. The position is addressed to men and women. Inmet Mining Corporation encourages the hiring of Crees and thanks all applicants of their interest, but advises that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Those interested are to send their Curriculum vitae, not later than April 19 to:

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Inmet Mining Corporation
Troilus Division
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YOUR FAVORITE GOOSE HUNTING SPOT

by Norman Fireman

Photo by Sonny Orr

Ronnie Masty of Whapmagoostui calling geese

Photo by Brian Webb

A proud Alex Macdonald from Chisasibi

The Nation asked a few goose hunters in Eeyou Istchee for their favorite goose hunting spots. We also asked what qualities make for a good goose boss, or whether a goose boss is even needed.

Harry Scipio of Chisasibi: My favorite goose hunting spot is at Seal River far north of Chisasibi. I hunt there both in the spring and fall. There are a lot of geese there when they really start to fly.

There's not only one goose boss. I help out in taking charge too. It really depends on who has the experience. The Elders teach the youth all about goose hunting. That's how it's done here. Sometimes the one who was in charge was known to just think about himself, and would get too greedy. Others were very fair. As for me, I didn't go to school. I learned all my knowledge from the old people who knew the goose, the Cree goose culture of the past.

The goose hunt has changed dramatically since the LG-2 dam. I have observed this very carefully. The eelgrass found along the shore of the Bay has vanished and the geese feed on that. Nowadays you have to feed them (corn) so they'll come back to feed. There are still plenty of geese in the spring, but in the fall there's hardly any. I went out twice last fall and didn't fire a single shot. In the old days there were always lots and lots of geese, both in the spring and fall. Now you have to feed them to get close.

Whapmagoostui's Ronnie Masty: We usually go goose hunting on our hunting territory. It's about 160 kilometres inland from our community. We call the place *Aa Ishpitaauh Kaach* (high hills). There's always a good place for goose hunting there during the peak of their migration. Joseph, my brother, is usually our goose boss. He's more than good. Everyone has a chance to shoot geese and no one is left out.

Sam Cox from Chisasibi: I have a secret spot. It's so secret I have a hard time finding it myself. We usually do our goose hunting on the northeast side of the La Grande Airport near the power lines. I noticed they fly along these lines so the saying that the geese find their bearings by the magnetic north could be true. My favorite spot is on the swamps, not too close to the power lines. I take charge and watch over my sons. Josie Cox has his own spot, not too far too. There are also other hunters in the area. Everyone has a chance to shoot geese. The hunting is good there and some days it's very good. It all depends on the weather. Some goose bosses are good and some are not too good. I've heard of one goose boss who got fired or removed as a goose boss.

Waskaganish's Peter Esau: At first, before they really begin to fly, I go hunting and set up my blind at the gravel pit. There are three places there for blinds. Then later we go to kilometre 381 on the Route du Nord where my father hunts all year round. We don't necessarily have a goose boss. My brother and I have our blinds in different spots at the lake. Some people from Nemaska hunt on the other side of the lake. It's good for goose hunting there, everyone takes charge.

Jeff Hester of Mistissini: I usually go goose hunting not far from the community, maybe about 20 minutes or a half hour ride from here. I only go goose hunting there in the spring. They call the place *Go Ban Chii* something like that and the guy who's in charge is Paul Isherhoff. He's my wife's uncle. He's a good goose boss and there are always plenty of geese there too.

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HAPPY HUNTING

On behalf of the

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We send good wishes to the Cree Nation for a safe and successful spring goose hunt.

Still in Search of a Kidney Donor

photo: Suzanne Bosum-Bush

Yvonne Bosum with her nine-year-old son, Brandon Bosum-Holdis

Dear Nation Readers,

Hello, my name is Yvonne Bosum and I am from the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation. I am 36 years old, and have a wonderful son who is 9 years old. At the moment I live in Fort-St-James, British Columbia. I know I am miles away from my family, and it is not easy for me at the moment. Five years ago I was diagnosed with kidney failure; both of my kidneys failed on me and now only 20 per cent of each kidney works. I used to be on the peritoneal home machine that cleans my system every night for 10 hours, but now my doctor had to put me on the dialysis machine, because my kidneys and body are getting weaker.

Not too long ago, before my doctor was going to put me on the machine, I was planning to come home and live with my family. But my doctor decided it was best that I go on the dialysis machine soon. For about a month or two I was traveling to Prince George, BC, which is two hours away from Fort St-James, to do my dialysis every second day. I would drive myself to the hospital every second day, but after my dialysis I would become very tired. I was afraid to drive home sometimes, thinking that I would fall asleep at the wheel. It came to a point where I couldn't take it anymore driving every second day to Prince George. So, I finally decided to move to Prince George, where I would be closer to the hospital.

Having this life is very difficult for me and frustrating because there are days where I get really sick and end up going and staying in the hospital for a couple of days. I am always in and out of the hospital and I get tired of going there sometimes. I wonder if it will be my last visit to the hospital, because my kidneys are getting weaker. I cannot survive on the dialysis machine for the rest of my life.

I want to live to see my son grow up and have a family of his own

I need a kidney donor, and I am desperately searching for one. I would do anything to live till I'm old, for the sake of my only child. I have put my name on the British Columbia donors' list, but so far I haven't had much luck and the waiting list is really long. It may take years before I could get a kidney, that's if I survive that long. My family back home did get tested to see if they can donate their kidneys, but unfortunately their blood types do not match. I am afraid of dying because I don't want to leave my son, I want to live to see him grow up, and have a family of his own. It is my son that makes me live everyday; he is the world to me. As it is for every mother who hopes to live as long as they can to see their own children grow to be somebody very important.

I am writing to all of you, if you would be willing to help me out, I am in search of a person who is willing to donate their kidney to me. I am Blood type O, anyone who has blood type O - or O + would be a match for me. If you are thinking about it, I can give a number of a friend of mine who donated a kidney to her mom, and is now living with one kidney and she is doing great. Her mom is also living a better life thanks to her daughter who donated the kidney. That is my one wish in life, is to find a kidney donor so I will know that I will live longer and grow old with my son. Please call (418) 745-2194 and ask for Suzanne or (418) 745-2418 for Rachel.

God, I pray that You bless this letter. I pray that I will see a miracle one day. A day where my body will be renewed by your power and holy spirit. Bless those that even think or even wish that they could help me out. I thank you.

If you would like to call to talk to me, I can be reached at (250) 996-5018 (remember that BC time is three hours behind). I thank you for your support and for helping me out. God knows how much I will appreciate you people who support each other, through difficult times of life, no matter who and where we are.

Yvonne Bosum

Prince George, BC

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

A Shot In The Dark

by Xavier Kataquapit

I was shocked and saddened at the report of the school shooting at Red Lake First Nation in Minnesota. I read the news reports of the event and I was surprised at the number of people killed in what seemed like a random act of violence. It was sad to realize that this was one more incident of extreme rage by a teenage student. The event made me think about why people act out in this way.

What kind of a world do we live in where people who feel left out end up thinking that their only option is to react violently? There are many examples of people in our society who feel oppressed and alienated in some way. They are not given the support and assistance they need as members of our society and in the end they feel alone and misunderstood. This reality leads to anger and resentment and in turn this too often ends up in tragedy with the loss of life.

I believe that we are all responsible in some way or another for the actions of our society's individual members. We all play a role in everyone's lives in what we do and don't do. Maybe as community members we should take a more active part in making sure that everyone is taken care of and that they are given a fair chance to become positive individuals in our society. We have a role to play in making sure that people are cared for in our communities.

There are also other causes for acts of violence in our society. A lot of the violence and suicides by young people points to medications for anxiety and depression. There may be beneficial uses for medications to deal with these problems but there are serious side effects to these drugs and some of them seem to be a tendency towards violence and suicide. We must think twice about putting people on these medications. Currently, we think that it is normal to treat people's depression and anxiety with medication rather than to spend the time with them to really deal with any underlying problems. A pill is a quick fix.

There is also the whole issue of access to guns in the United States. There are far too many stories of people acting out in violent ways with guns. If someone is upset or mentally unstable it is very easy for them to turn to a firearm and put it to deadly use.

As a First Nation Cree person from the James Bay coast, I grew up accustomed to all sorts of hunting rifles and shotguns around the house. Firearms are a normal part of life for Native people in remote communities. Hunting and gathering is still a part of our traditional culture, but I would be the first to question whether guns should be so readily accessible. There are many stories in First Nations and in my own community of Attawapiskat of young people getting control of a gun while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. It is too easy for people to grab a hold of gun when they are not in their right minds. There have been far too many sad stories of suicide and tragedy involving guns in our First Nation communities.

My heart goes out to the family of the young man who acted out against his community in Red Lake and to the students and parents who were affected by this tragedy.

There are many people who claim that the gun registry is not needed and that there should be less gun control. I think if you ask most police officers or those who have been tragically affected by the wrongful use of a firearm you will get another view. I do not think that gun control is being done as well as it should be, however. There should be no easy access to something as deadly as a gun and believe me there are too many guns sitting around and open to use by anyone in many homes in First Nation communities and as well non-Native communities. When guns are this readily available it is far too easy for bad things to happen, even to good people.

My heart goes out to the family of the young man who acted out against his community in Red Lake and to the students and parents who were affected by this tragedy. Maybe there can be some good that can come out of this terrible event. Perhaps this will give us all a wake-up call to pay more attention to each other and to create a more accepting and understanding society where no-one feels left out and if they do they will not have such an easy time getting hold of a gun.

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHS – 100

Congratulations to my brother Peter Mapachee & sister-in-law Joan Wylde on the birth of their 3rd son, Jaylen Peter Hunter Mapachee who came into our world on March 24, 2005 weighing a healthy 9lbs 4oz, at 8:08pm in Amos. A baby brother for Christopher & John. God Bless your new edition guys!! Love Always, Susan.

Congratulation to Julien Blueboy & Cindy Whiskeychan on the birth of their baby girl "A tiny angel sent from above to fill your hearts with love" Chassidy Daisy Ann came into this world weighing 7lbs and 7ozs on March 22, 2005. I'm glad to hear that your little one has safely arrived once again, congrats!! Love, your sis Mary (Wask.)

We would like to congratulate Colleen and Norman Longchap on the birth of their baby girl, born March 31, 2005, a little baby sister for the three muskateers, Thomas, Teddy and Tommy. Congratulations from Sharon, Philip, Josephine and Tyler Matoush from Dorval, Quebec.

BIRTHDAYS – 101

Happy 18th Birthday to Corrina Kitty on April 1, 2005. I love you mommy. Just kidding... lol...happy fools day and many more. Always, love Kenneth-Mark Petawabano.

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Kyle Abel Blacksmith on April 12, 2005. Happy Birthday Kyle, we love you. Hope you have fun on your day cause you deserve it. Take Care.

From: Aunty Caroline, cousin Skyler and Eric. Also, everyone @ 4 maple street wishes you a Happy Birthday.

Happy 4th Belated Birthday to my special grandson Brandon, on March 28th. I remember witnessing your entrance into this world. I almost missed the special moment, but I made it just 15 minutes before you were born. I drove for 6 hours from Timmins to welcome you. Your entrance was a safe one and very emotional for me. That was 4 years ago, it seems like only yesterday. I watch you today as you grow up and I feel trult blessed. For you bring inspiration and joy into my life. I thank God for little boys He sends from above. He makes them so precious and perfect in every way. Happy Birthday & many more to come. I love you so much! Many hugs and kisses from your Nanny (Wask.).

Happy Birthday to my sister, Leonda Otter, on March 26th. My sister is really special to me and my kids, especially to Khayden Otter. I want to thank you for everything you did for us, and for keeping my kids while I was in Montreal. Hey sis....me (Judy), Khayden, and the kids are going to Walt Disney on April 10-17. I will buy you a gift or souvenir, there. I felt sad that you can't go with us, since they will renovate your house. Oh, well! We'll still have fun. Once again, Happy Birthday, and many more to come. Enjoy your day! Khayden and the kids will sing to you on your birthday, and I'll make your cake for you. So, how many candles?...lol...Just joking, I won't tell how many. Love always, your sister Judy, Harry (your godchild), Keana, and Khayden Otter.

We would like to wish our daughter/sister Happy 9th Birthday and many more to come to Suzanne Tapiatic on March 13. Love always mom, dad, Betsy'sh and Johnsh ...xoxoxo... (Chisasibi).

I would like to wish my beautiful niece, Corrina Kitty, Happy Birthday on April 1st and happy belated birthday to my nephew Kyle Napash on February 4. I encourage you both to finish high school and I will be so proud of you. Don't give up, you are almost there. With love from your Aunt in Mistissini.

Sending Birthday Greeting to our family in Chisasibi. First to my nephew/cuzin Romeo (mamakash) Napash Happy 10th Birthday on March 2, we remembered you on your birthday and we welcome you to come live with us on your summer break again, we enjoyed being with you. To my sisters Alexandra on March 16 and to my baby sister on March 22. I love you sisters and I will always be here for you guys if you need me. Last to my friend Maya Benjamin on March 26, I wish you the best and may God bless you and comfort you on your loss. Once again Happy Birthday to all of you and we love you, with love always from Pierrette & Sebastien.

I would like to send a birthday greetings to Justus Terrell Weapinicappo! Happy 1st Birthday Chubby Lil' Man! Have Fun on your Birthday! From Your Chubby Buddy Marcus Sealhunter (Wemindji). P.S Don't eat too much cake!

We would like to wish my brother, brother-in-law, uncle, David R.Mapachee a happy birthday on April 23, 2005. Hope all your wishes come true! from Annie, Johnny, & Jaedon.

Happy 1st birthday to a special little boy, Kaedon, who'll be celebrating on April 20, 2005. Hope we'll be there on your birthday. From your big buddy Jaedon Salt (from Annie & Johnny Salt too!).

Wishing my Mom, Mom-in-law & Granny, Mary Lucy Mapachee, a very Happy Birthday on April 21, 2005. We hope your day will be filled with love & joy! And also, many more to come. From: Annie, Johnny & Jaedon Salt xoxox!

Today, it is a special day...We are celebrating and wishing a very Happy 10th Birthday to our son "Kyle Abel Blacksmith" on April 12th, 2005. Wow! It seems like yesterday you were born and we held you in our arms for the very first time. Now, look at you. You are all grown up and getting to be like Gretzky out on the ice each day. Well, you are getting there. son. Just keep on skating your best. We know you can do anything you want to do in life. Just keep reaching out for your dreams and remember that anything is possible. We believe in you, & we love you so, so much. Today, we just want to wish you all the happiness in the world, because we know you deserve it! One more thing, take good care of your sister, because she loves you too... Have a beautiful day son & Happy Birthday to you! With love always, Mom and Dad & your sister, Abbygail.

Happy Birthday to my daughter, Florrie Raven Rose, on April 19 in Waswanipi. Love always, your daddy JIMBO. Thinking of you on this special day!

I would like to wish my brother Jamie a Happy 17th Birthday on March 29, and a Happy 3rd Birthday to Clinton Miniquaken. Happy Birthday you guys, from TM in North Bay.

We like to wish a happy belated birthday to our friend Carrie Weistche! WOW! You're 15 years old man... LOL...I guess NO party for you LOL;). Wel, happy 15th birthday. I hope you will have fun on your night! Flirting GOH.. lol j.k. From: all your home girlz (Wask).

We would like to wish a happy belated birthday to our little buddy'sh! Marissa Moar, wow! You're getting older man! Don't worry, you will partay with us...lol jk! Well, I guess there's gonna be a partay on Friday or what? LOL...From all your home gurlz, you know us goh... Happy 13th B-day!

We would like to wish our cousin Taylor W. Blacksmith a Happy Birthday on April 2, 2005. Taylor, we really enjoy your daily visits and you taking time off your "Busy Schedule" to play with us and watch us when Mom is busy. We hope you don't grow up too fast and get bored with us "Kids". Once again, Happy Birthday! Much love, your cousins, Elliot & Ethan.

We would like to wish a Happy 12th Birthday to Taylor Whiskeychan-Blacksmith on April 2, 2005. Taylor, hope you enjoy your special day and many more to come. From: Renee & Terry.

I would like to say Happy Birthday to my Best Budday Vanessa Jacob A.K.A. Bunshee. She will be celebrat-

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ing her birthday is on April 6th and she will be turning 18! Happy Birthday der Phat Farm! You`ve always been there when I needed someone to talk to and you`ve been there through the thick and thin too, man. I really appreciate that, a lot man. You`re a good friend, man. Luv ya gurl, as a friend though.[LOL]. From your Team-mate/Buddy`sh, Connie Esau A.K.A Little Phat Farm`sh." Thanks a lot man.

I just wanna say A BIG hello to someone in Ouje I miss u a lot. How have you been? Have u been good or bad? Plz I didn't forget ur birthday, I was in the bush walking when it was ur b-day. I was thinking of u that day. Happy belated b-day in February. U just keep gettin older, many more to come. I hope ur still thinking of me 2, cause I know I am. I hope u had fun on ur b-day I remember u told me once what do u think of me. Love the way u look from head to toe Like u for who u are, but at times I think ur wisektow when u drink. U have never realized it but u have broken my heart for what u do & say but I still love u unconditionally. My love for u will never end. I don't want our friendship to ever end. I try to tell u how I feel but I just get a lil shy @ times. I love u and by the way come and see me sometimes. LOVE ALWAYS UR FRIEND from u know who. Plz forgive me 4 all da wrongs if I hurt u.

Happy Birthday to Wopsh @ Sault Ste. Marie on April 22, 2005. Hope you have a wonderful birthday. From your aunt Elaine.

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Corrina Kitty on April 1, Victor'sh Snowboy on April 9, and Uncle George on April 23, 2005, and many more birthdays to come. From Maya and Roger.

I would like to send a Belated Birthday wish to my friend in Chisasibi Alice Pepabano. Happy Birthday Buddy! I hope you enjoyed your day! I'm pretty sure you had fun that night...lol, cause I heard where you been:D...Anyways..Happy Belated Birthday (better late than never eh) Oh hey! Happy Birthday to Collin'sh too on the 22nd of March...Hope you two enjoyed your days..Miss ya guys..Fr: Annie.

Happy Belated Birthday to our buddy'sh and friend Melanie Neacappo on March 21 2005. Hope you had fun on your birthday and enjoy your teen years!! Peace-out!! From your buddy, Shannon and your big sister, Deborah.

I would love to say happy birthday to my Godmother, Stella Matthew on April 23rd and many more to come...Lub U!!!. Love Always: your Godchild, Maythan'sh xoxoxo.

Birthday wishes to my cousin/friend, Stella Matthew on April 23. Hope you enjoy your special day and ofcourse DON'T party too much - have fun, k! j/k. Love as a friend, from: Alexandra M. in Chis. xoxoxo

I wanna say Happy Birthday to the following people: Lily Sam on April 16, Stefanie Matthew on April 19, April Matthew on April 22, Stella Matthew on April 23, my uncle Adrian Bearskin and Paulina Matthew, both on April 24 and to Robert (loubit) Chakapash on April 29 and once again happy b-day and many more to come. From: Alexandra and Maythan Matthew xoxoxo

I want to wish a Happy Birthday to Sandra Webb, her birthday is on April 25, 2005. Happy 38th Birthday (SHORT STUFF). All I want to say is I love talking to you and chatting with you @ all times. I hope were not going to stop doing that. I hope I'll see you soon again and I hope I'll see you in Radisson on your birthday. Once again, Happy 38th Birthday (SHORT STUFF). LOVE: G.G

I would like to send birthday greetings to my cousins, Lyle Cox on April 2, and Stefanie Matthew on April 19. Both to my nephew Miles House, and Stella Matthew on April 23, Stefanie Matthew on April 24 and last, but not least to my friend Joey Fireman, also the 24th. I would like to wish you all a happy birthday and many more. Plus you could send me some geese? If you want!! From your cuz, aunt and friend always, Angela.

We want to wish a happy birthday to our daughter Josephine Pepabano-Matoush, she will be celebrating her 9th birthday on April 16, 2005. Happy Birthday Jance and many more to come. From Mom, Dad and brother Tyler.

HAPPY 7th Birthday to our oldest son Tristan-John Snowboy, on April 9, 2005. We Love You Very Much! May your wishes come true on your birthday and many more years to come. Love mom, Dad, Noah & Viola Snowboy

Happy 1st Birthday To Emery-John Rupert on April 9, 2005. I just want to wish you a happy 1st birthday hope you will enjoy your birthday. Eat your cake, as much as you want. Love Patricia, Gordon, Tristan, Noah & Viola Snowboy.

I would to wish my son, Abel-john Bosun, a happy 7th birthday on april 5, 05. You are so special to me and I love you with all my heart. Hope you get what you wanted. Have a good birthday party. Many more to come, love always, your dad (Stanley) fr. Whapmagoostui.

Happy Belated Birthday to my nephew shayne Masty on March 31, 2005. Hope you had what you wished for on your special day. I love you...from Auntie Patricia Snowboy.

Happy Belated Birthday to my nephew, Dale Kawapit on April 2, 2005. Happy birthday. I hope you enjoyed your party!!!! And many more to come. I love you! From Auntie Patricia, Gordon, Tristan, Noah & Viola Snowboy.

I just wanna say happy birthday to my special brother & sister who will be celebrating their birthdays. To my little sister, Juanita April Mianscum, her birthday is on April 2 she just turned 9 years old. And to my lil' brother, Peter James Mianscum, on April 11. He will be 6, I think. Happy Birthday to you both and many more birthdays to come. Hope you will have fun on your day, guys. Peter don't eat too much cake and Juanita don't be mad. I love you both so much. I don't know what I would do without you guys. Take care, you guys. From your big Sister who loves ya! Bye! Mom & Dad, I love you both so much too, okay! Thank you guys so much for always being there for me. I always count on you guys. Once again I love y'all! Bye.

I wanna wish a Happy Birthday to Cathy Kitchen in Waswanipi, on April 7. Hope you have a good one... and I didn't forget about the sunflower seeds. Wachiya !

We would like to send birthday greetinz to our budday, Angelina Spencer, A.K.A Angeloo! lol...

Happy Birthday Gurl! Don't party too much man, or else you'll get caught! Once again HAPPY BOO-DAY! From: All your Home-Gurlz (Wask.)

Wishing a happy 22nd birthday to my sister, April Brien on April 4th. Hey April take care of yourself and don't count the candles just have fun and be yourself. From ur sis...miss u and love u as a sister and a friend!!

WEDDINGS – 102

It was our great pleasure sharing your special day with you, watching you both as you exchanged your wedding vows, exchanging your rings and exchanging your first kiss as husband and wife. Katie, I was very honoured to stand by your side every step of the way. May your love to each other always bring a lifetime of happiness together. Best wishes as you enter your new journey as husband and wife. Katie A. Hester and Wayne D. Cheezo on February 14th, 2005. Congratulations! Best wishes! From the both of us: your Maid of Honor, Lisa Blackned, & your Flower girl, Wilyssa Blackned (Wask.).

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ANNIVERSARIES –

We would like to say Happy 56th Anniversary to Margaret & Noah Benjamin on April 18, 05. We would like to say WOW!! Congratualations! I hope you will have another 56 long years together. Once again, congratulations! With love, always: Maya & Roger.

We want to say a happy 19th anniversary to our special, caring parents, Diane and Eric Matthew, on April 22nd, 2005. Thank-you for always being there for us...WOW!! It's been 19 years now since you got married. Keep it up, don't break the Law (till' death do us part). Love always: ur Children, Alexandra, Rhonda, Ricky-Lee, Eric jr,Derrick and ur one and only grandson, Maythan boy. xoxoxo

PERSONAL – 300

Happy Easter to all the readers!

In loving memory: Joseph Hester, April 9, 1990-2005-03-23. The rolling stream of life rolls on, but still the vacant chair recalls the love, the voice, the smile of our father who once sat there. Your memory is as dear today as in the hour you passed away, more each day we miss you, Father. Forever in our hearts, till we meet again. From your wife and children (Waskaganish).

To: Him. I would like to send a little poem to a handsome boy in Waskaganish! I'm not gonna write his name because he will be embarassed if he hears these words! I met him in a party. I was shy, he taught me how to be myself. He even sang to me, the words kept saying 'good-bye.' One more time, he asked me to sing with him, I love my man...Waskaganish girls don't you dare mess with my man! If u do, I'll fight you lol.. jk. Well I still love him... we broke up at the arena when there was a tournament. He didn't know that I was playin, but I knew that he was cheatin...To tell you the truth, you were the only one that could enter into my heart, and for that I thank you. I love you. From: Her!

A very happy Easter to my family in Whapmagoostui, and hope to see you all soon this summer. Lots of kisses to my grandchildren Mary, Makayla, and boy Derek Sheshamush. Congratulations also to my brother John, and his wife Sarah Sheshamush for their new baby boy Stephane. Love you all, Annie Sheshamush in Montreal.

I want to wish a good holiday to my ENCS students for Goose Break. To the 14 of you (Lydia, Judy, Margaret, Maren, Arita, LeeAnn, Melissa, Elaine, Eileen, Chantal, Shirlene, Lorna, Pauline, and Vivian). Take this time to enjoy yourself and when I see you after, it will be the last lane to finish your collegial diploma in childcare services with me. Take care. Josee, ENSC teacher in Wemindji.

I would like to say Happy Mother's Day to my Mommy, Minnie Chemaganish. I hope you will enjoy your day. Love always, your daughter, Amy Lee Chemaganish X.o.X.o.

To women of all Strengths: Friends who are there for me, in each their own way. Friends who mysteriously work in my life. Woman I learn from & work with for the future, Friends I laugh with about the past, Friends I greet today, To all women of Waswanipi I say, Keep your chins up, Leave the house a mess to spend time with your loved ones. We may seem frail & fragile, but everyone knows we have all strengths, from us when allowed, Life goes on. Bianca.

Our hearts go out to Claudie and her boys and the whole Wapachee family. My the lord be with you and guide you on your everyday life. God bless you all, with love and prayers Olivia Couchees and Esther Simard.

To my sister in-law, Theresa Wapachee, words cannot express how you must be feeling with your loss. My love and prayers are with you and Blake. I love you both. If you need me, call me. From, Olivia Couchees.

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